

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

---

SAMUEL D. PECK, individually,  
and as Representative of a Class  
of Participants and Beneficiaries  
of the Munson 403(b) Plan,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

v.

MUNSON HEALTHCARE,

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT  
FOR CLAIMS UNDER  
29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2)

and

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
MUNSON HEALTHCARE

and

JOHN DOES 1-30

Defendants

---

COMES NOW Plaintiff, Samuel D. Peck, individually and as representative of a Class of Participants and Beneficiaries of the Munson 403(b) (the “Plan” or “Munson Plan”), by his counsel, WALCHESKE & LUZI, LLC and HANEY LAW OFFICE, P.C., as and for a claim against Defendants, alleges and asserts to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the following:

## INTRODUCTION

1. Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”), 29 U.S.C. § 1001 *et seq.*, plan fiduciaries must discharge their duty of prudence “with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.” ERISA Section 404(a)(1)(B), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B).

2. The ERISA fiduciary duty of prudence governs the conduct of plan fiduciaries and imposes on them “the highest duty known to the law.” *Donovan v. Bierwirth*, 680 F.2d 263, 272 n. 8 (2d Cir. 1982.)

3. The law is settled under ERISA that, “a categorical rule is inconsistent with the context-specific inquiry that ERISA requires,” *Hughes v. Northwestern Univ.*, 142 S. Ct. 737, 739 (2022), and “[a] plaintiff may allege that a fiduciary breached the duty of prudence by failing to properly monitor investments and remove imprudent ones.” *Id.* (citing *Tibble v. Edison Int’l*, 575 U.S. 523 (2015).)

4. Even in a defined contribution plan in which participants are responsible for selecting their plan investments, *see* ERISA Section 404(c), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(c), “plan fiduciaries are required to conduct *their own independent evaluation* to determine which investments may be prudently included in the plan’s menu of options.” *See Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 742 (citing *Tibble*, 575 U.S. at 529–530) (emphasis added.) “If the fiduciaries fail to remove an imprudent investment from the plan within a reasonable time,” fiduciaries “breach their duty [of prudence].” *Id.*

5. Defendants, Munson Healthcare (“Munson”), the Board of Directors of the Munson Healthcare (“Board Defendants”), and John Does 1-30 (collectively, “Defendants”), are ERISA fiduciaries as they exercise discretionary authority or discretionary control over the 403(b) defined contribution pension plan – known as Munson 403(b) Plan (the “Plan” or “Munson Plan”) – that it sponsors and provides to its employees.

6. During the putative Class Period (March 29, 2016, through the date of judgment), Defendants, as fiduciaries of the Plan, as that term is defined under ERISA Section 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), breached the duty of prudence they owed to the Plan by requiring the Plan to “pay[ ] excessive recordkeeping fees,” *Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 739-740, and by failing to remove their high-cost recordkeepers and consultants, Transamerica Retirement Solutions (“Transamerica.”)

7. Defendants, as fiduciaries of the Plan, as that term is defined under ERISA Section 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), breached their fiduciary duty of prudence also by “offer[ing] needlessly expensive investment options,” in the form of unreasonable share classes. *See Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 740.

8. These objectively unreasonable recordkeeping and investment fees cannot be contextually justified and do not fall within “the range of reasonable judgments a fiduciary may make based on her experience and expertise.” *See Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 742.

9. Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of prudence by offering higher cost investments to the Plan’s participant when it could have offered the same invest-

ment opportunities at a lower cost, and by causing the Plan participants to pay excessive recording account fees. Defendants unreasonably failed to leverage the size of the Plan to pay reasonable fees for Plan recordkeeping and investment services.

10. ERISA's duty of prudence applies to the conduct of the plan fiduciaries in negotiating recordkeeping fees, as well as selecting and retaining investments, based on what is reasonable (not the *cheapest* or *average*) in the applicable market.

11. There is no requirement to allege the actual inappropriate fiduciary actions taken because "an ERISA plaintiff alleging breach of fiduciary duty does not need to plead details to which he has no access, as long as the facts alleged tell a plausible story." *Allen v. GreatBanc Tr. Co.*, 835 F.3d 670, 678 (7th Cir. 2016).

12. The unreasonable recordkeeping fees paid, as well as the unreasonable selection and retention of Plan investments, inferentially tells the plausible story that Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of prudence under ERISA.

13. These breaches of fiduciary duty caused Plaintiff and Class Members millions of dollars of harm in the form of lower retirement account balances than they otherwise should have had in the absence of these unreasonable Plan fees and expenses.

14. To remedy these fiduciary breaches, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of the Plan under 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2) to enforce Defendants' liability under 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a), to make good to the Plan all losses resulting from these breaches of the duty of prudence.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

15. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction in this ERISA matter under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1332(e)(1), which provides for federal jurisdiction of actions brought under Title I of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1001 *et seq.*

16. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they transact business in this District, reside in this District, and have significant contacts with this District, and because ERISA provides for nationwide service of process.

17. Venue is appropriate in this District within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2) because some or all of the violations of ERISA occurred in this District and Defendants reside and may be found in this District.

18. In conformity with 29 U.S.C. § 1132(h), Plaintiff served the Complaint by certified mail on the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of the Treasury.

### **PARTIES**

19. Plaintiff, Samuel D. Peck, is a resident of the State of Michigan and currently resides in Kalkaska, Michigan, and during the Class Period, was a participant and former participant in the Plan under ERISA § 3(7), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7).

20. Plaintiff was a Registered Nurse at the Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan from 1993 through 2017.

21. Plaintiff has Article III standing to bring this action on behalf of the Plan because he suffered an actual injury to his own Plan account through paying excessive recordkeeping fees during the Class Period, that injury is fairly traceable to Defendants' unlawful conduct in maintaining Transamerica as its recordkeeper,

and the harm is likely to be redressed by a favorable judgment providing equitable relief to the Plaintiff and Class.

22. Having established Article III standing, Plaintiff may seek recovery under 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2), ERISA § 502(a)(2), on behalf of the Plan and for relief that sweeps beyond his own injury.

23. The Plaintiff and all participants in the Plan did not have knowledge of all material facts (including, among other things, the excessive recordkeeping, managed account, and investment fees) necessary to understand that Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of prudence until shortly before this suit was filed.

24. Having never managed a large 403(b) Plan, meaning a plan with over \$100 million dollars in assets, but less than \$500 million, *see Center for Retirement and Policy Studies, Retirement Plan Landscape Report* 18 (March 2022) (“[L]arge plans have \$500 million or less in assets, but more than \$100 million,”) Plaintiff, and all participants in the Plan, lacked actual knowledge of reasonable fee levels available to the Plan.

25. Munson Healthcare (“Munson”) Munson Healthcare is northern Michigan’s largest healthcare system, based in Traverse City, Mich., with eight community hospitals and related organizations and serving patients in thirty (30) counties. Its headquarters are located at 1105 6th Street, Traverse City, MI 49684. In this Complaint, “Munson” refers to the named Defendants and all parent, subsidiary, related, predecessor, and successor entities to which these allegations pertain.

26. Munson acted through its officers, including the Board of Directors (“Board Defendants”), and their members (John Does 1-20), to perform Plan-related

fiduciary functions in the course and scope of their business. Munson appointed other Plan fiduciaries, and accordingly had a concomitant fiduciary duty to monitor and supervise those appointees. For these reasons, Munson is a fiduciary of the Plan, within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A).

27. Munson also served as the Plan Administrator of the Munson 403(b) Plan. As the Plan Administrator, Munson is a fiduciary with day-to-day administration and operation of the Plan under 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A). Munson has authority and responsibility for the control, management, and administration of the Plan in accord with 29 U.S.C. § 1102(a). Munson has exclusive responsibility and complete discretionary authority to control the operation, management, and administration of the Plan, with all powers necessary to properly carry out such responsibilities.

28. To the extent that there are additional officers and employees of Munson who are or were fiduciaries of the Plan during the Class Period, or other individuals who were hired as investment managers for the Plan during the Class Period, the identities of whom are currently unknown to Plaintiff, Plaintiff reserves the right, once their identities are ascertained, to seek leave to join them to the instant action. Thus, without limitation, unknown “John Doe” Defendants 21-30 include, but are not limited to, Munson officers and employees who are or were fiduciaries of the Plan within the meaning of ERISA Section 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), during the Class Period.

29. The Plan is a Section 403(b) “defined contribution” pension plan under 29 U.S.C. § 1002(34), meaning that Munson’s contributions to the payment of Plan costs is guaranteed but the pension benefits are not. In a defined contribution plan,

the value of participants' investments is "determined by the market performance of employee and employer contributions, less expenses." *Tibble*, 575 U.S. at 525.

30. In 2020, the Plan had about \$397,001,236 in assets entrusted to the care of the Plan's fiduciaries. The Plan thus had substantial bargaining power regarding Plan fees and expenses. Defendants, however, did not regularly monitor Transamerica to ensure that Transamerica, and the Plan investments selected, remained the prudent and objectively reasonable choice.

31. With 7,426 participants in 2020, the Plan had more participants than 99.74% of the defined contribution plans in the United States that filed 5500 forms for the 2020 Plan year. Similarly, with \$397,001,236 in assets in 2020, the Plan had more assets than 99.56% of the defined contribution plans in the United States that filed 5500 forms for the 2020 Plan year.

**ERISA'S FIDUCIARY STANDARDS IN THE  
DEFINED CONTRIBUTION INDUSTRY**

32. Over the past three decades, defined contribution plans have become the most common employer-sponsored retirement plan. A defined contribution plan allows employees to make pre-tax elective deferrals through payroll deductions to an individual account under a plan. An employer may also make matching contribution based on an employee's elective deferrals.

33. Employees with money in a plan are referred to as "participants" under ERISA Section 3(7), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7).



34. Although Munson contributed significant amounts in employer matching contributions to Plan participants during the Class Period, these matching contributions are irrelevant to whether a Plan has paid excessive plan recordkeeping fees or other types of Plan expenses.

35. While contributions to a plan account and the earnings on investments will increase retirement income, fees and expenses paid by the plan may substantially reduce retirement income. Fees and expenses are thus a significant factor that affect plan participant's investment returns and impact their retirement income.

36. Employers must consider the fees and expenses paid by a plan. Employers are held to a high standard of care and diligence and must discharge their duties solely in the interest of the plan participants and their beneficiaries.

37. Employers must: (1) establish a prudent process for selecting investment options and service providers; (2) ensure that fees paid to service providers and other plan expenses are reasonable in light of the level and quality of services provided; and (3) monitor investment options and service providers once selected to make sure they continue to be appropriate choices.

### **Recordkeeping Services**

38. Defined contribution plan fiduciaries of large 401(k) and 403(b) plans hire service providers to deliver a retirement plan benefit to their employees. There is a group of national retirement plan services providers commonly and generically referred to as "recordkeepers," that have developed bundled service offerings that can meet all the needs of large retirement plans. Transamerica is one such recordkeeper.

39. These recordkeepers deliver all the essential recordkeeping and related administrative (“RKA”) services through standard bundled offerings of the same level and quality.

40. There are two types of essential RKA services provided by all recordkeepers. For large plans with substantial bargaining power (like the Plan), the first type, “Bundled RKA,” is provided as part of a “bundled” fee for a buffet style level of service (meaning that the services are provided in retirement industry parlance on an “all-you-can-eat” basis). The Bundled RKA services include, but are not limited to, the following standard services:

- a. Recordkeeping;
- b. Transaction Processing (which includes the technology to process purchases and sales of participants’ assets as well as providing the participants the access to investment options selected by the plan sponsor);
- c. Administrative Services related to converting a plan from one recordkeeper to another recordkeeper;
- d. Participant communications (including employee meetings, call centers/phone support, voice response systems, web account access, and the preparation of other communications to participants, e.g., Summary Plan descriptions and other participant materials);
- e. Maintenance of an employer stock fund (if needed);
- f. Plan Document Services which include updates to standard plan documents to ensure compliance with new regulatory and legal requirements;
- g. Plan consulting services including assistance in selecting the investments offered to participants;
- h. Accounting and audit services including the preparation of annual reports, e.g., Form 5500 (not including the separate fee charged by an independent third-party auditor);

- i. Compliance support which would include, e.g., assistance interpreting plan provisions and ensuring the operation of the plan follows legal requirements and the provisions of the plan (which would not include separate legal services provided by a third-party law firm); and
- j. Compliance testing to ensure the plan complies with Internal Revenue nondiscrimination rules.

41. The second type of essential RKA services, hereafter referred to as “Ad Hoc RKA” services, provided by all recordkeepers, often have separate, additional fees based on the conduct of individual participants and the usage of the service by individual participants (usage fees).

42. These “Ad Hoc RKA” services typically include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Loan processing;
- b. Brokerage services/account maintenance;
- c. Distribution services; and
- d. Processing of Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDROs).

43. For large plans, like the Munson Plan, any minor variations in the level and quality of RKA services described above and provided by recordkeepers has little to no material impact on the fees charged by recordkeepers.

44. All recordkeepers quote fees for the Bundled RKA services on a per participant basis without regard for any individual differences in services requested, which are treated by the recordkeepers as immaterial because they are, in fact, inconsequential from a cost perspective to the delivery of the Bundled RKA services.

45. The vast majority of fees earned by recordkeepers typically come from the bundled fee for providing the Bundled RKA services as opposed to the Ad Hoc RKA services.

46. Because dozens of recordkeepers can provide the complete suite of required RKA services, plan fiduciaries can ensure that the services offered by each specific recordkeeper are apples-to-apples comparisons.

47. In other words, plan fiduciaries use the Bundled RKA fee rate as the best and most meaningful way to make apples-to-apples comparisons of the recordkeeping fee rates proposed by recordkeepers.

48. Plan fiduciaries request bids from recordkeepers by asking what the recordkeeper's Bundled RKA revenue requirement is to administer the plan. And they request that the Bundled RKA revenue requirement be expressed as either a flat per participant fee rate or an asset-based fee rate, although the use of an asset-based fee structure is not a best practice.

49. While there may be minor differences in the way the Bundled RKA services are delivered, those differences are not deemed material to the price comparisons in virtually all cases.

50. If a specific recordkeeper provided additional services that were not offered by the other recordkeepers, and those additional services were deemed material, then the plan fiduciaries would make a downward adjustment to the price proposed by that specific recordkeeper in the amount of the value added by the additional

service to make an apples-to-apples comparison with the other recordkeeping offerings. However, there are virtually never material differences in the Bundled RKA service offerings that would warrant a price adjustment.

51. The Munson Plan had a standard package of Bundled RKA services, providing recordkeeping and administrative services of a nearly identical level and quality to other recordkeepers who also service large plans.

52. There is nothing in the service and compensation codes disclosed by the Plan Fiduciaries in their Form 5500 filings during the Class Period that suggests that the administrative fee charged to participants included any services that were unusual or above and beyond the standard recordkeeping and administrative services provided by all national recordkeepers to large plans with more than \$100,000,000 in assets.

53. Accordingly, the disparity between the annual administrative fee and the fee paid by several other similarly sized plans for (at least) the same standard bundle of RKA services cannot be explained by any additional services. Moreover, to the extent that additional services were provided by some providers to any Plan participants, those services were charged separately to the participants using the services and were *in addition to* the administrative fee.

54. Because recordkeepers offer the same bundles and combinations of services as their competitors, the market for defined contribution retirement plan services has become increasingly price competitive for plans that have a sizable number of participants.

55. Over the past twenty years, the fees that recordkeepers have been willing to accept for providing retirement plan services has significantly decreased. Recordkeepers are willing (or competitively required) to accept a lower and more competitive fee as a result of, among other things, the competitive pressures created by greater information becoming available to plan fiduciaries and the reduction in opaque fee structures.

56. By the start of, and during the entire Class Period, the level of fees that recordkeepers have been willing to accept for providing RKA has stabilized, and has not materially changed for large plans, including the Munson Plan. In other words, reasonable recordkeeping fees paid in 2018 are representative of the reasonable fees during the entire Class Period.

57. The underlying cost to a recordkeeper of providing recordkeeping to a defined contribution plan is primarily dependent on the number of participant accounts in the Plan, not the amount of assets in the Plan. As a plan gains more participants, the reasonable market rate for the services provided by the recordkeeper will decline.

58. The investment options selected by plan fiduciaries often have a portion of the total expense ratio allocated to the provision of recordkeeping performed by the recordkeepers on behalf of the investment manager.

59. As a result, recordkeepers often make separate contractual arrangements with mutual fund providers. For example, recordkeepers often collect a portion of the total expense ratio fee of the mutual fund in exchange for providing services

that would otherwise have to be provided by the mutual fund. These fees are known as “revenue sharing” or “indirect compensation.”

60. Recordkeepers typically collect their fees through direct payments from the plan or through indirect compensation such as revenue sharing, or some combination of both.

61. Regardless of the pricing structure that the plan fiduciary negotiates with any service provider, and Plaintiff expresses no preference, the amount of compensation paid to service providers, including the recordkeepers, must be reasonable (not the *cheapest* or *average* in the market.)

62. As a result, plan fiduciaries must understand the total dollar amounts paid to the recordkeeper and be able to determine whether the compensation is objectively reasonable by understanding the market for such recordkeeping services.

### **Investments**

63. Plan Fiduciaries of a defined contribution Plan have a continuing and regular responsibility to select and monitor all investment options they make available to Plan participants.

64. The primary purpose in selecting Plan investments is to give all participants the opportunity to create an appropriate asset allocation under modern portfolio theory by providing diversified investment alternatives.

65. When the same investment management services are provided through a mutual fund with different share classes, the fee paid to the portfolio manager is the same for all share classes. The difference in the share class fees is the amount of

additional fees which can be used to pay for, among other things, recordkeeping services.

66. As a result, when a prudent plan fiduciary can select from among several alternative share classes of the identical investment option, the prudent plan fiduciary selects the share class that provides the greatest benefit to plan participants.

### **THE PLAN**

67. During the entire Class Period, the Plan received recordkeeping services from Transamerica.

68. At all relevant times, the Plan's recordkeeping fees were objectively unreasonable and excessive when compared with other comparable 401(k) and 403(b) plans offered by other sponsors that had similar numbers of plan participants.

69. The fees were also excessive relative to the level and quality of recordkeeping services received since the same level and quality of services are generally offered to large plans, like the Munson Plan, regardless of the number of services selected by the Plan and regardless of the specific service codes utilized by the plan on the Form 5500.

70. In this case, Transamerica did not provide any services that were not part of the standard package of RKA services provided by all recordkeepers to all large plans.

71. These excessive Plan recordkeeping fees led to lower net returns than participants in comparable 401(k) and 403(b) Plans enjoyed.



72. During the Class Period, Defendants breached their duty of prudence owed to the Plan, to Plaintiff, and all other Plan participants, by authorizing the Plan to pay objectively unreasonable fees for recordkeeping services.

73. Defendants' fiduciary mismanagement of the Plan, to the detriment of Plan participants and their beneficiaries, breached their fiduciary duties of prudence in violation of Section 404(a)(1)(B), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B), and caused Plaintiff and members of the Class millions of dollars of harm to their Plan accounts.

**STANDARD OF CARE FOR PRUDENT FIDUCIARIES**  
**SELECTING & MONITORING RECORDKEEPERS**

74. A plan fiduciary is required to fully understand all sources of revenue received by its recordkeeper. It must regularly monitor that revenue to ensure that the compensation received is, and remains, *reasonable* for the quality and level of services provided.

75. Prudent plan fiduciaries ensure they are paying only reasonable fees for recordkeeping by engaging in an "independent evaluation," see *Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 742, including by soliciting competitive bids from other recordkeepers to perform the same level and quality of services currently being provided to the Plan.

76. Prudent plan fiduciaries can easily receive a quote from other recordkeepers to determine if their current level of recordkeeping fees is reasonable in light of the level and quality of recordkeeper fees.

77. Having received bids, prudent plan fiduciaries can negotiate with their current recordkeeper for a lower fee or move to a new recordkeeper to provide the

same (or better) level and qualities of services for a more competitive reasonable fee if necessary.

78. A benchmarking survey alone is inadequate. Such surveys skew to higher “average prices,” that favor inflated recordkeeping fees. To receive a truly “reasonable” recordkeeping fee in the prevailing market, prudent plan fiduciaries engage in solicitations of competitive bids on a regular basis.

79. Prudent fiduciaries implement three related processes to prudently manage and control a plan’s recordkeeping costs. *Tussey v. ABB, Inc.*, 746 F.3d 327, 336 (8th Cir. 2014).

80. First, a hypothetical prudent fiduciary tracks the recordkeeper’s expenses by demanding documents that summarize and contextualize the recordkeeper’s compensation, such as fee transparencies, fee analyses, fee summaries, relationship pricing analyses, cost-competitiveness analyses, and multi-practice and standalone pricing reports.

81. Second, to make an informed evaluation as to whether a recordkeeper is receiving no more than a reasonable fee for the quality and level of services provided to a plan, prudent hypothetical fiduciaries must identify all fees, including direct compensation and revenue sharing being paid to the plan’s recordkeeper.

82. Third, a hypothetical plan fiduciary must remain informed about overall trends in the marketplace regarding the fees being paid by other plans, as well as the recordkeeping rates that are available. By soliciting bids from other recordkeepers, a prudent plan fiduciary can quickly and easily gain an understanding of the current market for the same level and quality of recordkeeping services.

83. Accordingly, the only way to determine the *reasonable*, as opposed to the *cheapest* or *average*, market price for a given quality and level of recordkeeping services is to obtain competitive bids from other providers in the market.

**PLAN FIDUCIARIES DID NOT EFFECTIVELY MONITOR  
RECORDKEEPING FEES AND THE PLAN THUS PAID  
UNREASONABLE RECORDKEEPING FEES**

84. A plan fiduciary must continuously monitor its recordkeeping fees by regularly conducting an independent evaluation of those fees to ensure they are reasonable and remove recordkeepers if those fees are unreasonable. *See Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 742.

85. During the Class Period, Defendants failed to regularly monitor the Plan's recordkeeping fees paid to recordkeepers, including but not limited to Transamerica.

86. During the Class Period, Defendants failed to regularly solicit quotes and/or competitive bids from recordkeepers, including but not limited to Transamerica, in order to avoid paying unreasonable recordkeeping fees.

87. During the Class Period, and unlike a hypothetical prudent fiduciary, Defendants followed a fiduciary process that was done ineffectively given the objectively unreasonable recordkeeping fees it paid to Transamerica and in light of the level and quality of recordkeeper services it received.

88. From the years 2015 through 2020 and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, the table below shows the actual year-end participants and annual RKA fees, illustrating that the Plan had on average 7,041 participants with

account balances and paid an average effective annual RKA fee of at least approximately \$630,265, which equates to an average of at least approximately \$90 per participant. These are the minimum amounts that could have been paid:

**Recordkeeping and Administration (RKA) Fees**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<i><b>Average</b></i>
<b>Participants</b>	5,952	6,255	6,960	7,519	8,134	7,426	<i><b>7,041</b></i>
<b>Est. RKA Fees</b>	\$410,484	\$484,797	\$580,038	\$655,588	\$758,820	\$891,864	<i><b>\$630,265</b></i>
<b>Est. RKA Per Participant</b>	\$69	\$78	\$83	\$87	\$93	\$120	<i><b>\$90</b></i>

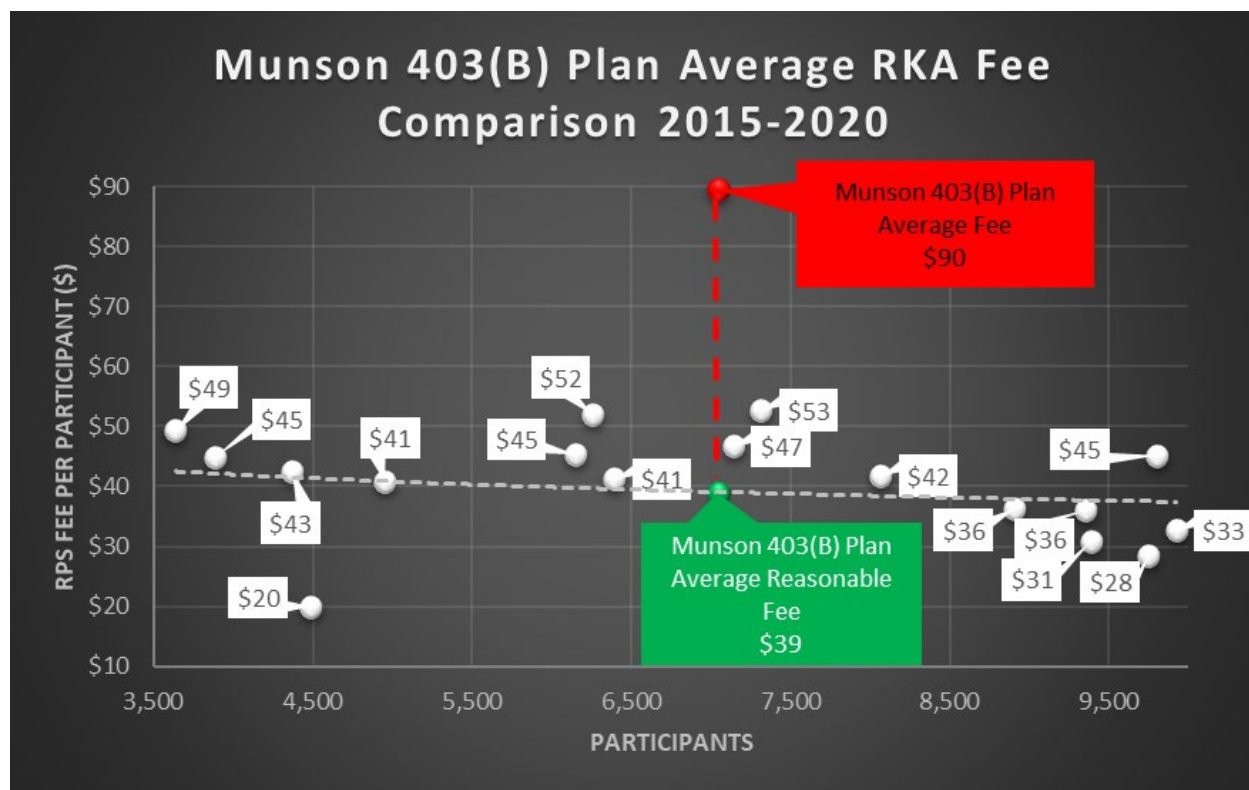
89. From the years 2015 through 2020 and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, the table below illustrates the annual RKA fees paid by other comparable plans of similar sizes with similar amounts of money under management, receiving a similar level and quality of services, compared to the average annual RKA fees paid by the Plan (as identified in the table above).

<b>Comparable Plans' RKA Fees Based on Publicly Available Information from Form 5500<sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>Plan</b>	<b>Partici- pants</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>RKA Fee</b>	<b>RKA Fee /pp</b>	<b>Recordkeeper</b>	<b>Graph Color</b>
Associated Materials, LLC 401(k) Retirement Plan	3,639	\$99,814,049	\$179,475	\$49	ADP	White
Hitachi Vantara Corporation Retirement And Savings Program	3,890	\$680,441,899	\$174,568	\$45	Fidelity	White
The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. Employees' Profit Sharing Retirement Fund	4,369	\$421,208,989	\$185,805	\$43	Vanguard	White

Under Armour 401(k) Plan	4,485	\$179,198,512	\$89,400	\$20	T. Rowe Price	White
Healthfirst Profit Sharing 401(k) Plan	4,950	\$227,721,800	\$201,889	\$41	Vanguard	White
Smithfield Foods, Inc. Salaried 401(k) Plan	6,149	\$500,178,777	\$278,907	\$45	Great-West	White
Genesis Health System Retirement Savings Plan	6,260	\$231,793,794	\$325,894	\$52	Transamerica	White
Flowserve Corporation Retirement Savings Plan	6,395	\$892,435,613	\$263,380	\$41	T. Rowe Price	White
<b>Munson 403(b) Plan Average Fee</b>	<b>7,041</b>	<b>\$272,750,324</b>	<b>\$630,265</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>Transamerica</b>	<b>Red</b>
St. Luke's Health Network 403(b) Plan	7,142	\$241,600,647	\$333,578	\$47	Transamerica	White
Memorial Health System Defined Contribution Retirement Savings Plan	7,318	\$221,242,194	\$385,754	\$53	Transamerica	White
The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. Employees' Savings Plan And Profit Sharing Retirement Fund	8,067	\$894,454,060	\$336,660	\$42	Vanguard	White
Bausch Health Companies Inc. Retirement Savings Plan	8,902	\$904,717,349	\$322,496	\$36	Fidelity	White
Children's Medical Center Of Dallas Employee Savings Plan 403(b)	9,356	\$349,335,673	\$337,416	\$36	Fidelity	White
Ralph Lauren Corporation 401(k) Plan	9,389	\$552,586,935	\$290,066	\$31	T. Rowe Price	White
Vibra Healthcare Retirement Plan	9,750	\$107,652,510	\$277,532	\$28	Great-West	White
Centerpoint Energy Savings Plan	9,802	\$2,108,802,293	\$442,946	\$45	Voya	White

Republic National 401(k) Plan	9,922	\$671,989,837	\$324,171	\$33	Great-West	White
<sup>1</sup> Price calculations are based on 2018 Form 5500 information.						

90. From the years 2015 through 2020 and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, the graph below illustrates the annual RKA fees paid by other comparable plans of similar sizes with similar amounts of money under management, receiving a similar level and quality of services, compared to the average annual RKA fees paid by the Plan (as identified in the table above), with the white data points representing RKA fees that recordkeepers offered to (and were accepted by) comparable Plans.



91. From the years 2015 to 2020, and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, the table and graph above illustrate that the Plan paid an effective average annual RKA fee of at least \$90 per participant for RKA.

92. From the years 2015 through 2020 and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, the table and graph above illustrate that a hypothetical prudent plan fiduciary would have paid on average an effective annual RKA fee of around \$39 per participant, if not lower.

93. From the years 2015 through 2020, and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, had Defendants been acting in the exclusive best interest of the Plan's participants, the Plan actually would have paid significantly less than an average of approximately \$630,265 per year in RKA fees, which equated to an effective average of approximately \$90 per participant per year.

94. From the years 2015 through 2020 and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, and as also compared to other plans of similar sizes, receiving a similar level and quality of services, had Defendants been acting in the best interests of the Plan's participants, the Plan actually would have paid on average a reasonable effective annual market rate for RKA of approximately \$274,599 per year, which equates to approximately \$39 per participant per year. During the entirety of

the Class Period, a hypothetical prudent plan fiduciary would not agree to pay more than double what they could otherwise pay for RKA.

95. From the years 2015 through 2020 and based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, the Plan additionally cost its participants on average approximately \$355,666 per year in RKA fees, which equates to on average approximately \$51 per participant per year.

96. From the years 2015 to 2020, and because Defendants did not act in the best interests of the Plan's participants, and as compared to other plans of similar sizes, receiving a similar level and quality of services, the Plan actually cost its participants a total minimum amount of approximately \$2,133,998 in unreasonable and excessive RKA fees.

97. From the years 2015 to 2020 based upon the best publicly available information, which was equally or even more easily available to Defendants during the Class Period, because Defendants did not act in the best interests of the Plan's participants, and as compared to other plans of similar sizes, receiving a similar level and quality of services, the Plan actually cost its participants (when accounting for compounding percentages) a total, cumulative amount in excess of \$2,947,151 in RKA fees.

98. Defendants could have offered the exact same recordkeeping services at a lower cost by using a different recordkeeper but did not do so.

99. Although the United States Supreme Court noted in *Hughes* that "[a]t times, the circumstances facing an ERISA fiduciary will implicate difficult tradeoffs,



and courts must give due regard to the range of reasonable judgments a fiduciary may make based on her experience and expertise," *Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 742, these recordkeeping allegations are not about reasonable tradeoffs between recordkeepers providing a different level or quality of services.

100. Defendants failed to take advantage of the Plan's size to timely negotiate lower fees from its existing recordkeeper, and Defendants could have obtained the same recordkeeping services for less.

101. The higher cost recordkeeping services selected by Defendants were substantially identical to lower-cost recordkeeping services available in the market as highlighted by the chart above.

102. Plaintiff paid these excessive recordkeeping fees in the form of direct compensation to the Plan and suffered injuries to their Plan accounts as a result.

103. During the entirety of the Class Period, and unlike a hypothetical prudent fiduciary, Defendants did not regularly and/or reasonably assess the Plan's RKA fees it paid to Transamerica.

104. During the entirety of the Class Period, and unlike a hypothetical prudent fiduciary, Defendants did not engage in any regular and/or reasonable examination and competitive comparison of the RKA fees it paid to Transamerica vis-à-vis the fees that other RKA providers would charge, and would have accepted, for the same level and quality of services.

105. During the entirety of the Class Period, Defendants knew or had knowledge that it must engage in regular and/or reasonable examination and competitive comparison of the Plan's RKA fees it paid to Transamerica, but Defendants

either simply failed to do so, or did so ineffectively given that it paid over 100% higher for RKA fees than it should have.

106. During the entirety of the Class Period and had Defendants engaged in regular and/or reasonable examination and competitive comparison of the RKA fees it paid to Transamerica, it would have realized and understood that the Plan was compensating Transamerica unreasonably and inappropriately for its size and scale, passing these objectively unreasonable and excessive fee burdens to Plaintiff and Plan participants and would have removed Transamerica as an imprudent choice.

107. The Plan recordkeeping fees were also excessive relative to the recordkeeping services received, since the quality and level of such services are standard for large 403(b) plans like this Plan and are provided on an “all-you-can-eat-basis,” based primarily on the number of participants a plan has. In other words, any difference in recordkeeping fees between comparable Plans is not explained by the level and quality of services each recordkeeper provides.

108. During the entirety of the Class Period and by failing to recognize that the Plan and its participants were being charged much higher RKA fees than they should have been and/or by failing to take effective remedial actions including removing Transamerica as Plan recordkeeper, Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of prudence to Plaintiffs and Plan participants.

**STANDARD OF CARE FOR PRUDENT FIDUCIARIES SELECTING  
& MONITORING INVESTMENT OPTIONS**

109. For all practical purposes, there is a commonly accepted process to select and monitor investment options which is based on modern portfolio theory and the

prudent investor standard. Under ERISA, plan fiduciaries are required to engage investment consultants or advisors to the extent that the plan fiduciaries do not have the investment expertise necessary to select and monitor investments under modern portfolio theory.

110. That accepted process involves, among other things, evaluating the performance history, tenure, and stability of the current portfolio manager, the risk adjusted returns, and the fees.

111. Plan fiduciaries of plans as large as the Defendant's Plan are deemed to be "Institutional Investors" and are deemed to have a higher level of knowledge and understanding of the different investment share classes and the different components of fees within the total expense ratio of an investment option.

112. In fact, as "Institutional Investors," retirement plans often have the ability to access investment options and service structures that are not available or understood by retail investors such as individual plan participants like Plaintiff.

113. For example, minimum investment requirements and other fees or restrictions are routinely waived for large retirement plans and were waived with the Plan's investments.

114. As a result, when a plan fiduciary can choose among different share classes to receive the services of a specific portfolio manager, the plan fiduciary is required to understand all the fees related to the different share classes and collective trusts and choose the share class or collective trust that is in the best interest of the plan participants. This is especially critical when the pricing structure provides compensation to the recordkeeping from revenue sharing paid by plan participants as

part of the total expense ratio of the investment options selected by the plan fiduciaries.

**THE PLAN PAID UNREASONABLY HIGH FEES  
FOR IMPRUDENT SHARE CLASSES**

115. Many mutual funds offer multiple classes of shares in a single mutual fund that are targeted at different investors. Generally, more expensive shares are targeted at small investors with less bargaining power, while lower cost shares are targeted at larger investors with greater assets.

116. There is no material difference between share classes other than costs – the funds hold identical investments and have the same portfolio manager.

117. It is well known among institutional investors that mutual fund companies routinely waive investment minimums for large retirement plans, and they did so with the Plan. Moreover, large defined contribution plans such as the Munson Plan have sufficient assets to qualify for the lowest cost share classes.

118. So, unlike individual or retail investors, retirement plan fiduciaries often have access to several different share classes. A prudent plan fiduciary ensures that the plan selects the share class that provides the greatest benefit to plan participants given the institutional advantages provided to retirement plans in relation to retail investors.

119. Choosing the share class that provides the greatest benefit to plan participants is always the prudent choice because the use of the correct share class results in one of the following superior options: 1) the amount of the fee extraction to

cover the recordkeeping fee will be lower; or 2) the amount of excess revenue being credited back to participant accounts is greater.

120. During the Class Period, Defendants knew or should have known that they are required to select the share classes that provide the greatest benefit to plan participants.

121. During the Class Period, Defendants knew or should have known that it must engage in an objectively reasonable search for and selection of the share classes that provide the greatest benefit to plan participants.

122. During the Class Period, Defendants did not use share classes that provide the greatest benefit to plan participants and in some cases even switched from one share class to a different share class that charged a higher price.

123. During the Class Period, Defendants did not engage in an objectively reasonable search for and selection of the share classes that provide the greatest benefit to plan participants.

124. The following charts identify Defendants' share class investments during the Class Period vis-à-vis the prudent alternatives that provide the greatest benefit to plan participants:

Defendants' Investment					Prudent Alternative Share Class					
		Exp Ratio	Revenue Sharing	Net Investment Expense to Retirement Plans (%)			Exp Ratio	Revenue Sharing	Net Investment Expense to Retirement Plans (%)	Defendants' Plan's Investment Excessive Fees (%)
Ticker	Fund Name	(%)	(%)	(%)	Ticker	Fund Name	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
BPRIX	BlackRock Inflation Protected Bond Institutional	0.65%	0.15%	0.50%	BPLBX	BlackRock Inflation Protected Bond K	0.45%	0.00%	0.45%	11%
CSZIX	Cohen & Steers Real Estate Securities Z	0.79%	0.00%	0.79%	CSEIX	Cohen & Steers Real Estate Securities A	1.14%	0.45%	0.69%	14%
IVHIX	Ivy High Income I (2015)	0.72%	0.06%	0.66%	WHIYX	Ivy High Income Y	0.95%	0.50%	0.45%	47%
IVHIX	Ivy High Income I (2016-2018)	0.72%	0.08%	0.64%	WHIYX	Ivy High Income Y	0.95%	0.50%	0.45%	42%
IVHIX	Ivy High Income I (2019-2020)	0.72%	0.10%	0.62%	WHIYX	Ivy High Income Y	0.95%	0.50%	0.45%	38%
JDSNX	Janus Henderson Small Cap Value N	0.68%	0.00%	0.68%	JSCVX	Janus Henderson Small Cap Value T	0.92%	0.35%	0.57%	19%
MFBKX	MFS Corporate Bond R6 (2016-2020)	0.43%	0.00%	0.43%	MFBHX	MFS Corporate Bond R3	0.78%	0.50%	0.28%	54%
MEIKX	MFS Value R6	0.47%	0.00%	0.47%	MEIHX	MFS Value R3	0.82%	0.50%	0.32%	47%
OIGIX	Oppenheimer International Growth I	0.69%	0.00%	0.69%	OIGYX	Invesco Oppenheimer International Gr Y	0.85%	0.25%	0.60%	15%
JDSNX	Perkins Small Cap Value N	0.68%	0.00%	0.68%	JSCVX	Janus Henderson Small Cap Value T	0.92%	0.35%	0.57%	19%
PIMIX	PIMCO Income Institutional	1.05%	0.00%	1.05%	PONAX	PIMCO Income A	1.45%	0.45%	1.00%	5%
FBNRX	Templeton Global Bond R6	0.57%	0.00%	0.57%	TPINX	Templeton Global Bond A	0.94%	0.50%	0.44%	30%
Average		0.68%	0.03%	0.65%	Average		0.93%	0.40%	0.52%	28.40%

125. The underlying data and information reflected in the charts above are truthful, accurate, and derived from publicly available information, which was equally as available to Defendants during the Class Period, including, but not limited to, standard reports prepared by Transamerica.

126. Based upon data and information reflected in the charts above, the excessive fee paid by Participants during the Class Period as a result of Defendants' failure to use the prudent alternative share class that provided the greatest benefit to Plan Participants was approximately 28.40%.

127. There is no rational reason for a prudent plan fiduciary to choose an investment option that effectively charges a fee that is approximately 28% higher

than an alternative investment option that provides the identical services of the same portfolio manager.

128. During the Class Period, and had Defendants engaged in an objectively reasonable search for, and selection of, the share class that provided the greatest benefit to plan participants, the Plan would have selected the fund in the chart above.

129. During the entirety of the Class Period, Defendants knew or should have known about the existence of alternative share classes of the same mutual funds currently selected and performed the analysis to determine the share class that provides the greatest benefit to Plan participants.

130. During the entirety of the Class Period, Defendants selected a share class that resulted in higher fees to Plan participants when a share class of the identical investment option was available that would have resulted in lower fees, to the substantial detriment of Plaintiffs and the Plan's participants.

131. Defendants could have offered the exact same investments at a lower cost but did not do so with regard to multiple Plan investments.

132. Although the United States Supreme Court noted in *Hughes* that "[a]t times, the circumstances facing an ERISA fiduciary will implicate difficult tradeoffs, and courts must give due regard to the range of reasonable judgments a fiduciary may make based on her experience and expertise," *Hughes*, 142 S. Ct. at 742, these share class allegations are not about reasonable tradeoffs between differently managed investments. The higher cost share classes selected by Defendants were identical to those lower-cost shares class identified in the chart above.

133. As an example, the MFS Corporate Bond R6 (MFBKX), was selected by Plan fiduciaries and made available to participants in the Plan from 2016 through at least 2020.

134. As of December 31, 2020, Plan Participants had invested more than \$32,428,340 in this investment option. The portfolio managers of this investment option were Alexander M. Mackey and Henry Peabody (Mackey & Peabody). Plan participants can receive the identical portfolio management services of Mackey & Peabody through several different investment options (share classes) with different fee structures. The fee structures for the varying share classes of this investment option, all managed by Mackey & Peabody, are set forth in the chart below:

<b>Example of Different Share Class Fee Levels for Identical Portfolio Management Services</b>		
	<b>MFS Corporate Bond R3</b>	<b>MFS Corporate Bond R6 (2016-2020)</b>
<b>Share Class</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R6</b>
<b>Investment Advisor</b>	Massachusetts Financial Services Company	Massachusetts Financial Services Company
<b>Portfolio Managers</b>	Alexander M. Mackey, Henry Peabody	Alexander M. Mackey, Henry Peabody
<b>Ticker</b>	<b>MFBHX</b>	<b>MFBKX</b>
<b>Portfolio Management Fee</b>	0.38%	0.38%
<b>Total Expense Ratio</b>	0.78%	0.43%
<b>Revenue Sharing Credit</b>	0.50%	0.00%
<b>Net Investment Expense to Retirement Plans</b>	0.28%	0.43%

135. The underlying data and information reflected in the chart above is truthful, accurate, and derived from publicly available information, which was equally as available to Defendants during the Class Period including, but not limited to, standard reports prepared by Transamerica.



136. In the second to last row of the chart above, “Revenue Sharing Credit,” is the portion of the “Total Expense Ratio” that is allocable to the provision of RKA.

137. As a result, the fee paid for the portfolio management services of the portfolio managers Mackey & Peabody to pursue the identical investment strategy with the same goals, objectives, and risk profile is the “Net Investment Expense to Retirement Plans” set forth in the bottom row.

138. The MFS Corporate Bond R3 (MFBHX) has the lowest net investment expense at 0.28%. Despite the Total Expense Ratio being higher, the MFS Corporate Bond R3 (MFBHX) provides the greatest benefit to Plan participants because the 0.50% in revenue sharing that is allocable to RKA services is a credit that is returned to the participants directly or used as a credit against the RKA fee. If the 0.50% allocable to RKA services exceeds the actual RKA fee, then the excess can also be returned to the Plan and its participants.

139. During the Class Period, Plan Participants would have received the lowest possible fee for the portfolio management services of Mackey & Peabody if invested in the MFS Corporate Bond R3 (MFBHX).

140. When two identical service options are readily available (in this case the portfolio management services of Mackey & Peabody) and would be known as part of the standard of care related to selecting and monitoring investment options, a prudent plan fiduciary ensures that the least expensive of those options is selected.

141. A prudent plan fiduciary understands that the higher “sticker” price of the RKA fee portion of the expense ratio is not relevant since the RKA service provider returns excess revenue to the Plan and its participants.

142. The DOL requires plan fiduciaries to understand all the fees related to all the various services provided to the Plan and its participants. By selecting an investment option that charges more for identical portfolio management services, the Plan fiduciaries breached their duty of prudence.

143. A hypothetical prudent fiduciary conducting an impartial and objectively reasonable review of the Plan's investments during the Class Period would have conducted a review on a quarterly basis, would have identified the share class that provided the greatest benefit to Plan Participants, and would have transferred the Plan's investments into the prudent share classes at the earliest opportunity.

144. During the entirety of the Class Period, Defendants: 1) did not conduct an impartial and objectively reasonable review of the Plan's investments on a quarterly basis; 2) did not identify the prudent share classes available to the Plan; and 3) did not transfer the Plan's investments into this prudent share class at the earliest opportunity.

145. During the Class Period and because Defendants failed to act in the best interests of the Plan's Participants by engaging in an objectively reasonable process when selecting its share classes, Defendants caused unreasonable and unnecessary losses to the Plan's participants through 2020 in the amount of approximately \$748,113 and as detailed in the following chart:

Actual Investment Lineup						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Net Investment Expense to Retirement Plans	\$566,561	\$800,472	\$1,021,165	\$1,007,100	\$1,369,456	\$1,576,039
Prudent Alternative Share Class						
Net Investment Expense to Retirement Plans	\$548,410	\$719,598	\$922,689	\$906,216	\$1,254,804	\$1,450,757
Est. Investment Damages	\$18,151	\$80,875	\$98,476	\$100,884	\$114,652	\$125,282
Compounding Percentage (VIII)		11.95%	21.82%	-4.41%	31.48%	18.41%
Est. Cumulative Investment Damages	\$18,151	\$101,195	\$221,751	\$312,856	\$525,995	\$748,113

146. During the entirety of the Class Period, and by failing to recognize that the Plan was invested in share classes that resulted in higher fees when share classes that resulted in lower fees to Plan participants was available for the same investment, and/or by failing to take effective remedial actions as described herein, Defendants breached their fiduciary duties of prudence to Plaintiff and the Plan participants.

### CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

147. 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2) authorizes any participant or beneficiary of the Plan to bring an action individually on behalf of the Plan to enforce a breaching fiduciary's liability to the Plan under 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a).

148. In acting in this representative capacity, Plaintiff seeks to certify this action as a class action on behalf of all participants and beneficiaries of the Plan. Plaintiff seeks to certify, and to be appointed as representatives of, the following Class:

All participants and beneficiaries of the Munson 403(b) Plan (excluding the Defendants or any participant/beneficiary who is a fiduciary to the Plan) beginning March 29, 2016 and running through the date of judgment.

149. The Class includes over 7,000 members and is so large that joinder of all its members is impracticable, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(1).

150. There are questions of law and fact common to this Class pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(2), because Defendants owed fiduciary duties to the Plan and took the actions and omissions alleged as the Plan and not as to any individual participant. Common questions of law and fact include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Whether Defendants are fiduciaries liable for the remedies provided by 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a);
- b. Whether Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to the Plan;
- c. What are the losses to the Plan resulting from each breach of fiduciary duty; and
- d. What Plan-wide equitable and other relief the Court should impose in light of Defendants' breach of duty.

151. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(3), because Plaintiff was a participant during the time period at issue and all Participants in the Plan were harmed by Defendants' misconduct.

152. Plaintiff will adequately represent the Class pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(4), because he is a participant in the Plan during the Class period, has no interest that conflicts with the Class, is committed to the vigorous representation of the Class, and has engaged experienced and competent lawyers to represent the Class.

153. Certification is appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(1), because prosecution of separate actions for these breaches of fiduciary duties

by individual participants and beneficiaries would create the risk of (1) inconsistent or varying adjudications that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants concerning its discharge of fiduciary duties to the Plan and personal liability to the Plan under 29 U.S.C. § 1109(a), and (2) adjudications by individual participants and beneficiaries regarding these breaches of fiduciary duties and remedies for the Plan would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of the participants and beneficiaries who are not parties to the adjudication, or would substantially impair those participants' and beneficiaries' ability to protect their interests.

154. Certification is also appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the Class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the class as a whole.

155. Plaintiff's attorneys are experienced in complex ERISA and class litigation and will adequately represent the Class.

156. The claims brought by the Plaintiff arise from fiduciary breaches as to the Plan in its entirety and do not involve mismanagement of individual accounts.

157. The claims asserted on behalf of the Plans in this case fall outside the scope of any exhaustion language in individual participants' Plans. Exhaustion is intended to serve as an administrative procedure for participants and beneficiaries whose claims have been denied and not where a participant or beneficiary brings suit on behalf of a Plan for breaches of fiduciary duty.

158. Under ERISA, an individual “participant” or “beneficiary” are distinct from an ERISA Plan. A participant’s obligation – such as a requirement to exhaust administrative remedies – does not, by itself, bind the Plan.

159. Moreover, any administrative appeal would be futile because the entity hearing the appeal (the Plan Administrator) is the same Plan Administrator that made the decisions that are at issue in this lawsuit. Policy supporting exhaustion of administrative remedies in certain circumstances – that the Court should review and where appropriate defer to a Plan administrator’s decision – does not exist here because courts will not defer to Plan administrator’s legal analysis and interpretation.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Breach of Duty of Prudence of ERISA, as Amended**  
**(Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and Class, Against Defendants –**  
**Recordkeeping Fees)**

160. Plaintiff restates the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

161. Defendants are fiduciaries of the Plan under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1002(21) and/or 1102(a)(1).

162. 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B) imposes a fiduciary duty of prudence upon Defendants in their administration of the Plan.

163. Defendants, as fiduciaries of the Plan, are responsible for selecting a recordkeeper that charges objectively reasonable recordkeeping fees.

164. During the Class Period, Defendants had a fiduciary duty to do all of the following: ensure that the Plan’s recordkeeping fees were objectively reasonable; defray reasonable expenses of administering the Plan; and act with the care, skill, diligence, and prudence required by ERISA.

165. During the Class Period, Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of prudence to Plan participants, including to Plaintiff, by failing to ensure that the Plan's recordkeeping fees were objectively reasonable, defray reasonable expenses of administering the Plan, and act with the care, skill, diligence, and prudence required by ERISA.

166. During the Class Period, Defendants further had a continuing duty to regularly monitor and evaluate the Plan's recordkeeper to make sure it was providing the RKA services at reasonable costs, given the highly competitive market surrounding recordkeeping and the significant bargaining power the Plan had to negotiate the best fees, and remove the recordkeeper if it provided recordkeeping services at objectively unreasonable costs.

167. During the Class Period, Defendants breached their duty to Plan participants, including Plaintiff, by failing to employ a prudent process and by failing to evaluate the cost of the Plan's recordkeeper critically or objectively in comparison to other recordkeeper options.

168. Through these actions and omissions, Defendants breached their fiduciary duty of prudence with respect to the Plan in violation 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B).

169. Defendants' failure to discharge their duties with respect to the Plan with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would have used in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims, breaching its duties under 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B).

170. As a result of Defendants' breach of fiduciary duty of prudence with respect to the Plan, the Plaintiff and Plan participants suffered millions of dollars in objectively unreasonable and unnecessary monetary losses.

171. Defendants are liable under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2) to make good to the Munson Plan the losses resulting from the breaches, to restore to the Plan any profits Defendants made through the use of Plan assets, and to restore to the Plan any profits resulting from the breaches of fiduciary duties alleged in this Count. In addition, Defendants are subject to other equitable relief as set forth in the Prayer for Relief.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Breaches of Duty of Prudence of ERISA, as Amended**  
**(Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and Class, Against Defendants –**  
**Investment Management Fees)**

172. Plaintiff restates the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

173. Defendants are fiduciaries of the Plan under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1002(21) and/or 1102(a)(1).

174. 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B) imposes a fiduciary duty of prudence upon Defendants in managing the investments, including share classes, of the Plan.

175. Defendants, as fiduciaries of the Plan, are responsible for selecting prudent investment options, ensuring that those options charge only reasonable fees, and taking any other necessary steps to ensure that the Plan's assets are invested prudently.

176. During the Class Period, Defendants had a fiduciary duty to do all of the following: manage the assets of the Plan for the sole and exclusive benefit of Plan



Participants and beneficiaries; defray reasonable expenses of administering the Plan; and act with the care, skill, diligence, and prudence required by ERISA.

177. During the Class Period, Defendants breached their fiduciary duties of prudence to Plan participants, including Plaintiff, by failing to manage the assets of the Plan for the sole and exclusive benefit of Plan participants and beneficiaries, defray reasonable expenses of administering the Plan, act with the care, skill, diligence, and prudence required by ERISA.

178. Defendants, as fiduciaries of the Plan, had a continuing duty to regularly monitor and independently assess whether the Plan's investments were prudent choices for the Plan and to remove imprudent investment options regardless of how long investments had been in the Plan.

179. During the Class Period, Defendants breached their fiduciary duties of prudence to Plan participants, including Plaintiff, by failing to engage in a prudent process for monitoring the Plan's investments and removing imprudent ones within a reasonable period.

180. Defendants were directly responsible for ensuring that the Plan's investment management fees were reasonable, selecting investment options in a prudent fashion in the best interest of Plan participants, prudently evaluating and monitoring the Plan's investments on an ongoing basis, eliminating share classes that did not serve the best interest of Plan participants, and taking all necessary steps to ensure that the Plan's assets were invested prudently and appropriately.

181. Defendants failed to employ a prudent process by failing to evaluate the cost and performance of the Plan's investments and fees critically or objectively in

comparison to other more reasonable investment options. Defendants selected and retained for years as Plan investment options mutual funds with higher expenses relative to other investment options that were readily available to the Plan at all relevant times.

182. Defendants' failure to discharge their duties with respect to the Plan with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would have used in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims, breaching its duties under 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B).

183. As a result of Defendants' breach of their fiduciary duties of prudence with respect to the Plan, the Plaintiff and Plan participants suffered unreasonable and unnecessary monetary losses.

184. Defendants are liable under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2) to make good to the Plan the losses resulting from the breaches, to restore to the Plan any profits Defendants made through the use of Plan assets, and to restore to the Plan any profits resulting from the breaches of fiduciary duties alleged in this Count. In addition, Defendants are subject to other equitable relief pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2).

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Failure to Adequately Monitor Other Fiduciaries under ERISA, as Amended  
(Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and Class, Against Defendants  
– Recordkeeping Fees)**

185. Plaintiff restates the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

186. Defendants had the authority to appoint and remove members or individuals responsible for Plan recordkeeping fees, and knew or should have known that these fiduciaries had critical responsibilities for the Plan.

187. In light of this authority, Defendants had a duty to monitor those individuals responsible for Plan recordkeeping fees to ensure that they were adequately performing their fiduciary obligations, and to take prompt and effective action to protect the Plan in the event that these individuals were not fulfilling those duties.

188. Defendants had a duty to ensure that the individuals responsible for Plan administration possessed the needed qualifications and experience to carry out their duties (or use qualified advisors and service providers to fulfill their duties); had adequate financial resources and information; maintained adequate records of the information on which they based their decisions and analysis with respect to the Plan's investments; and reported regularly to Defendants.

189. The objectively unreasonable and excessive recordkeeping fees paid by the Plan inferentially suggest that Defendants breached their duty to monitor by, among other things:

- a. Failing to monitor and evaluate the performance of individuals responsible for Plan recordkeeping fees and fee disclosures or have a system in place for doing so, standing idly by as the Plan suffered significant losses in the form of objectively unreasonable recordkeeping expenses;
- b. Failing to monitor the process by which the Plan's recordkeeper was evaluated and failing to investigate the availability of more reasonably-priced recordkeepers; and
- c. Failing to remove individuals responsible for Plan recordkeeping fees and fee disclosure whose performance was inadequate in that these individuals continued to pay the same recordkeeping costs even though solicitation of competitive bids would have shown that maintaining

Transamerica as the recordkeeper at the contracted price was imprudent, excessively costly, all to the detriment of the Plan and Plan participants' retirement savings.

190. As the consequences of the foregoing breaches of the duty to monitor for recordkeeping fees the Plaintiff and Plan participants suffered millions of dollars of objectively unreasonable and unnecessary monetary losses.

191. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§1109(a) and 1132(a)(2), Defendants are liable to restore to the Munson Plan all losses caused by their failure to adequately monitor individuals responsible for Plan recordkeeping fees. In addition, Plaintiffs are entitled to equitable relief and other appropriate relief as set forth in the Prayer for Relief.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**Failure to Adequately Monitor Other Fiduciaries under ERISA, as Amended  
(Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and Class, Against Defendants  
– Investment Management Fees)**

192. Plaintiff restates the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

193. Defendants had the authority to appoint and remove members or individuals responsible for Plan investment management fees, and knew or should have known that these fiduciaries had critical responsibilities for the Plan.

194. In light of this authority, Defendants had a duty to monitor those individuals responsible for Plan investment management fees to ensure that they were adequately performing their fiduciary obligations, and to take prompt and effective action to protect the Plan in the event that these individuals were not fulfilling those duties.

195. Defendants had a duty to ensure that the individuals responsible for Plan administration possessed the needed qualifications and experience to carry out their duties (or use qualified advisors and service providers to fulfill their duties); had adequate financial resources and information; maintained adequate records of the information on which they based their decisions and analysis with respect to the Plan's investments; and reported regularly to Defendants.

196. The objectively unreasonable and excessive investment management fees paid by the Plan inferentially suggest that Defendants breached their duty to monitor by, among other things:

- a. Failing to monitor and evaluate the performance of individuals responsible for Plan investment management fees and fee disclosures or have a system in place for doing so, standing idly by as the Plan suffered significant losses in the form of objectively unreasonable investment management expenses;
- b. Failing to monitor the process by which investment fees were evaluated and failing to investigate the availability of more reasonably-priced investment management fees; and
- c. Failing to remove individuals responsible for Plan investment management fees and fee disclosure whose performance was inadequate in that these individuals continued to pay the same investment management costs even though solicitation of competitive bids would have shown that maintaining the selected share classes was imprudent, excessively costly, all to the detriment of the Plan and Plan participants' retirement savings.

197. As the consequences of the foregoing breaches of the duty to monitor for investment management fees the Plaintiff and Plan participants suffered millions of dollars of objectively unreasonable and unnecessary monetary losses.

198. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2), Defendants are liable to restore to the Munson Plan all losses caused by their failure to adequately monitor

individuals responsible for Plan investment management fees. In addition, Plaintiffs are entitled to equitable relief and other appropriate relief as set forth in the Prayer for Relief.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants on all claims and requests that the Court award the following relief:

- A. A determination that this action may proceed as a class action under Rule 23(b)(1), or in the alternative Rule 23(b)(2), of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- B. Designation of Plaintiff as Class Representative and designation of Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;
- C. A Declaration the Defendants have breached their fiduciary duties under ERISA;
- D. An Order compelling the Defendants to make good to the Plan all losses to the Plan resulting from Defendants' breaches of fiduciary duty, including restoring to the Plan all losses resulting from paying unreasonable recordkeeping and investment management costs, restoring to the Plan all profits the Defendants made through use of the Plan's assets, and restoring to the Plan all profits which the Participants would have made if the Defendants had fulfilled their fiduciary obligation;
- E. An Order requiring Munson to disgorge all profits received from, or in respect of, the Plan, and/or equitable relief pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(3) in the form of an accounting for profits, imposition of constructive trust, or surcharge against Munson as necessary to effectuate relief, and to prevent Munson's unjust enrichment;
- F. An Order enjoining Defendants from any further violation of their ERISA fiduciary responsibilities, obligations, and duties;
- G. Other equitable relief to redress Defendants' illegal practices and to enforce the provisions of ERISA as may be appropriate, including appointment of an independent fiduciary or fiduciaries to run the Plan and removal of plan fiduciaries deemed to have breached their fiduciary duties;
- H. An award of pre-judgment interest;

- I. An award of attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g) and the common fund doctrine; and
- J. Such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

Dated this 29th day of March, 2022

s/ Paul M. Secunda

\*James A. Walcheske, WI Bar No. 1065635

\*Scott S. Luzi, WI Bar No. 1067405

Paul M. Secunda, WI Bar No. 1074127

\*Pro Hac Vice Applications Pending

**WALCHESKE & LUZI, LLC**

235 Executive Dr., Suite 240

Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

Telephone: (262) 780-1953

E-Mail: jwalcheske@walcheskeluzi.com

E-Mail: sluzi@walcheskeluzi.com

E-Mail: psecunda@walcheskeluzi.com

Troy W. Haney (P48614)

**HANEY LAW OFFICE, P.C.**

330 E. Fulton Street

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Telephone: (616) 235-2300

Fax: (616) 459-0137

E-Mail: thaney@troyhaneylaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff